

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 and 56-79 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 15, 26, 33, 40, 56, 57, 66, 70, and 75 are amended by way of this Amendment to clarify the subject matter of the invention and/or to correct typographical errors. All pending claims 1-54 and 56-79, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 14-16, 26, 27, 33, 40, 45, 56-58, 60, 61, 66, 70, 71, 75 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick et al. (USPN 5,339,360) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Independent claim 1 generally recites a telecommunication system that includes a telephone headset, an accessory for the telephone headset, and a headset adapter coupled to both the headset and the headset accessory that directly controls the accessory for the telephone headset independently of the base telephone.

In the Examiner's response to the Amendment, the Examiner contends the PBX communicates directly with the Option Processor (FIG. 7, col., 6, line 47-col. 7, line 10). However, even if this were true, then it would be the PBX (not the Option Processor) that is controlling or monitoring the accessory. In contrast, independent claim 1, for example, explicitly recites that the accessory is directly controlled and monitored by the headset adapter – not by any other component.

That Endick's Option Processor does not directly control the options is further evidenced by the flow of a command message as shown by Endick in FIG. 7, for example, from the PBX to the option processor 702 of the microprocessor 118 then to the various options 704, 706 (in order of priority) and finally to the base processor 708 of the microprocessor 118. As is evident, the option processor 702 is clearly not directly controlling or monitoring the headset adapter as recited in the claims. Rather, it is the PBX that is controlling by sending command messages via the Option Processor.

RESET Command Issued by the Option Processor

In the Examiner's response to the Amendment, the Examiner further contends that Endick's Option Processor operates independently of any other device by noting that the software

Reset Option command can be issued by the Option Processor "when it wants to perform a software reset of one or more options" (col. 8, lines 59-61). The firmware that is the Option Processor cannot "want" to perform an action or issue a command without some instigating event that causes the Option Processor to "want" to issue the Reset Command. Specifically, as Endick describes later in that same paragraph, the Option Processor issues a RESET command "whenever a microcontroller reset occurs." (col. 8, lines 66-68). In other words, the Option Processor issues the RESET command in response to a microcontroller reset.

The microcontroller encompasses both the Option Processor and the Base Processor that controls the digital telephone functions of the base telephone. As noted by Endick, the microcontroller's firmware is logically split into two components: the Base Processor that controls the digital telephone functions of the telephone and the Option Processor that distributes messages to options and the Base Processor. (col. 6, lines 47-52). Endick also describes reset events as being "within the telephone such as power on" (col. 6, lines 3-5; see also col. 5, lines 39-42 and col. 10, lines 3-4) or when the PBX issues a "phone reset" (col. 8, lines 41-42).

Thus when the Option Processor issues a command to perform a software reset of the options in response to a microcontroller reset, the Option Processor is not directly controlling the options, as recited in independent claim 1, for example.

Independent claim 15 similarly recites an adapter base for a telecommunications headset coupled to an accessory for the headset; independent claim 26 recites a headset accessories interface bus coupled to a headset accessory; independent claim 33 recites an interface bus for a headset adapter and a headset accessory; independent claim 40 recites a method using a headset adapter base and an interface bus; independent claim 56 recites a communications protocol for a headset accessories interface bus; independent claim 66 recites a combination having a headset adapter and a communications protocol; independent claim 70 recites a headset adapter base for testing a headset accessory; and independent claim 75 recites a method for testing a headset accessory using a headset adapter. With regard to these independent claims, Endick similarly fails to disclose the elements relating to the headset accessory and headset adapter as discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 56, 66, 70, and 75 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Combination of Endick with Secondary References

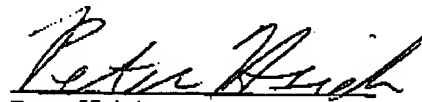
The deficiencies of Endick are not overcome with the addition of secondary references. In particular, claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick in view of Yamaguchi, King, Micsterfeld, Waechter, Jones, Yamada, and/or Tanaka. However, these claims are believed to be allowable at least for the similar reasons as set forth above with regard to Endick. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-3876).

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Hsieh
Reg. No. 44,780

Plantronics, Inc.
345 Encinal Street
P.O. Box 635
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-0635
Telephone: (831) 458-7758
Facsimile: (831) 426-2965